

**This Page is Inserted by IFW Indexing and Scanning
Operations and is not part of the Official Record**

BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images include but are not limited to the items checked:

- ☐ **BLACK BORDERS**
- ☐ **IMAGE CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES**
- ☐ **FADED TEXT OR DRAWING**
- ☐ **BLURRED OR ILLEGIBLE TEXT OR DRAWING**
- ☐ **SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES**
- ☐ **COLOR OR BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS**
- ☐ **GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS**
- ☐ **LINES OR MARKS ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT**
- ☐ **REFERENCE(S) OR EXHIBIT(S) SUBMITTED ARE POOR QUALITY**
- ☐ **OTHER:** _____

IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.

As rescanning these documents will not correct the image problems checked, please do not report these problems to the IFW Image Problem Mailbox.

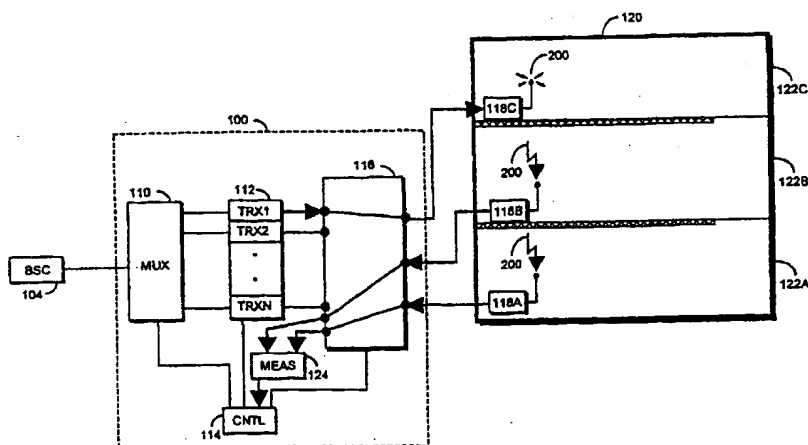
This Page Blank (usp10,



INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶ : H04Q 7/30, 7/36		A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 99/00999
			(43) International Publication Date: 7 January 1999 (07.01.99)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/FI98/00529 (22) International Filing Date: 17 June 1998 (17.06.98) (30) Priority Data: 972618 18 June 1997 (18.06.97) FI (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): NOKIA TELECOMMUNICATIONS OY [FI/FI]; Keilalahdentie 4, FIN-02150 Espoo (FI). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): PATRONEN, Petri [FI/FI]; Huovintie 5, FIN-90630 Oulu (FI). SUHONEN, Aki [FI/FI]; Tuluskuja 10, FIN-90420 Oulu (FI). SIL- VENTOINEN, Marko [FI/FI]; Pitkäsillanranta 5 A 4, FIN-00530 Helsinki (FI). (74) Agent: PATENTTITOIMISTO TEKNOPOLOIS KOLSTER OY; c/o Kolster Oy AB, Iso Roobertinkatu 23, P.O. Box 148, FIN-00121 Helsinki (FI).		(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AT (Utility model), AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, CZ (Utility model), DE, DE (Utility model), DK, DK (Utility model), EE, EE (Utility model), ES, FI, FI (Utility model), GB, GE, GH, GM, GW, HU, ID, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SK (Utility model), SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>With international search report.</i> <i>Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the</i> <i>claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of</i> <i>amendments.</i> <i>In English translation (filed in Finnish).</i>	

(54) Title: DETERMINATION OF NEIGHBOUR CELLS IN A BASE STATION



(57) Abstract

The invention relates to a method for the determination of neighbours of a sub-cell (122C) in a cellular radio network base station (100) applying dynamic channel allocation, and to a base station (100) implementing the method. The base station (100) comprises at least two sub-cells (122A, 122B, 122C). Each sub-cell (122A, 122B, 122C) comprises an antenna unit (118A, 118B, 118C) with a fixed connection to the base station (100). A transceiver (TRX1-TRX2-TRXN) is used for transmitting a signal through an antenna unit (118A, 118B, 118C). A measurement unit (124) measures through the antenna unit (118A, 118B, 118C) the reception power of the received signal. The invention is characterized in that a transceiver (TRX1) is used for transmitting a test signal (200) through the antenna unit of the sub-cell (122C) under examination. The test signal (200) is received through the antenna units (118A, 118B) of the other sub-cells (122A, 122B). The measurement unit (124) measures through the antenna units (118A, 118B) of the other sub-cells (122A, 122B) the reception power of the received test signal (200). Lastly, on the basis of the reception powers of the test signal (200) measured in the control unit (114), the sub-cells (122B) that are neighbours of the sub-cell (122C) under examination are determined.

FOR THE PURPOSES OF INFORMATION ONLY

Codes used to identify States party to the PCT on the front pages of pamphlets publishing international applications under the PCT.

AL	Albania	ES	Spain	LS	Lesotho	SI	Slovenia
AM	Armenia	FI	Finland	LT	Lithuania	SK	Slovakia
AT	Austria	FR	France	LU	Luxembourg	SN	Senegal
AU	Australia	GA	Gabon	LV	Latvia	SZ	Swaziland
AZ	Azerbaijan	GB	United Kingdom	MC	Monaco	TD	Chad
BA	Bosnia and Herzegovina	GE	Georgia	MD	Republic of Moldova	TG	Togo
BB	Barbados	GH	Ghana	MG	Madagascar	TJ	Tajikistan
BE	Belgium	GN	Guinea	MK	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	TM	Turkmenistan
BF	Burkina Faso	GR	Greece	ML	Mali	TR	Turkey
BG	Bulgaria	HU	Hungary	MN	Mongolia	TT	Trinidad and Tobago
BJ	Benin	IE	Ireland	MR	Mauritania	UA	Ukraine
BR	Brazil	IL	Israel	MW	Malawi	UG	Uganda
BY	Belarus	IS	Iceland	MX	Mexico	US	United States of America
CA	Canada	IT	Italy	NE	Niger	UZ	Uzbekistan
CF	Central African Republic	JP	Japan	NL	Netherlands	VN	Viet Nam
CG	Congo	KE	Kenya	NO	Norway	YU	Yugoslavia
CH	Switzerland	KG	Kyrgyzstan	NZ	New Zealand	ZW	Zimbabwe
CI	Côte d'Ivoire	KP	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	PL	Poland		
CM	Cameroon	KR	Republic of Korea	PT	Portugal		
CN	China	KZ	Kazakstan	RO	Romania		
CU	Cuba	LC	Saint Lucia	RU	Russian Federation		
CZ	Czech Republic	LI	Liechtenstein	SD	Sudan		
DE	Germany	LK	Sri Lanka	SE	Sweden		
DK	Denmark	LR	Liberia	SG	Singapore		
EE	Estonia						

DETERMINATION OF NEIGHBOUR CELLS IN A BASE STATION

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The invention relates to a method for the determination of neighbours of a sub-cell in a cellular radio network base station applying dynamic channel allocation, the base station comprising: at least two sub-cells; in each sub-cell, an antenna unit with a fixed connection to the base station; at least one transceiver for transmitting a signal through the antenna unit; at least one measurement unit for measuring the reception power of the signal received through the antenna unit.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

A problem in the above described arrangement is that the system operator manually determines the neighbours of each base station's sub-cells. The neighbours must be determined because a sub-cell and its neighbour cell cannot use one and the same dynamically selected frequency/time slot combination because transmitters occupying the same frequency and time slot would cause too much co-channel interference for each other. In addition, handover between sub-cells becomes difficult if the neighbours are not determined. A manual determination of neighbours requires time-consuming manual measurements of reception powers, performed within the sub-cells. A large number of measurements may be required. When a new sub-cell is added to the system, or the position of a sub-cell antenna unit is changed, manual determination of neighbours will have to be repeated. This makes the system significantly more difficult to optimise and to expand, and increases the operating costs of the system.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

An object of the invention is thus to provide a method and an equipment implementing the method to allow the above mentioned problems to be solved. This is achieved with a method described in the preamble, characterized in that: a transceiver is used for transmitting a test signal through an antenna unit of a sub-cell under examination; the test signal is received through antenna units of other sub-cells; a measurement unit is used for measuring the reception power of the test signal received through the antenna units of the other sub-cells; on the basis of the measured reception powers of the test signal, neighbour sub-cells of the sub-cell under examination are determined.

The invention also relates to a cellular radio network base station comprising: dynamic channel allocation; at least two sub-cells; in each sub-cell, an antenna unit with a fixed connection to the base station; at least one transceiver for transmitting a signal through an antenna unit; at least one measurement unit for measuring the reception power of the signal received through an antenna unit; a switching field for connecting a signal to travel between a particular transceiver and antenna unit; a control unit controlling the operation. The base station according to the invention is characterized in that: the control unit is arranged to direct the transceiver to transmit a test signal through an antenna unit of the sub-cell under examination connected via the switching field; the antenna units of the other sub-cells are arranged to receive the test signal; the measurement unit is arranged to measure the reception power of the test signal received through the antenna units of the other sub-cells; the control unit is arranged to determine, on the basis of the measured reception powers of the test signal, the neighbour sub-cells of the sub-cell under examination.

The preferred embodiments of the invention are disclosed in the dependent claims.

The invention is based on determining, on the basis of a reception power, those neighbour sub-cells in which a signal transmitted through the sub-cell under examination could cause disturbance. In such case, the reception power of a test signal is high enough in the neighbour sub-cells concerned. The neighbour sub-cells thus found should not use the same frequency/time slot pairs as the sub-cell under examination.

The method and arrangement of the invention provide many advantages. Manual measurements of reception powers are not needed. It is therefore easier and less expensive to add new sub-cells and to change existing sub-cells. The quality of connections improves because sub-cells applying the same frequency/time slot pair and thus causing interference for each other are placed at a sufficiently long distance from each other. The reliability of successful handover is enhanced.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

In the following the invention will be described in greater detail in connection with preferred embodiments and with reference to the attached drawings, in which

Figure 1 illustrates an example of a structure of a base station

according to the invention;

Figures 2A, 2B illustrate an example of the determination of neighbours;

5 Figure 2C illustrates a second example of the determination of neighbours;

Figure 2D illustrates a third example of the determination of neighbours.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

10 With reference to Figure 1, let us now study a cellular radio network of the invention. The cellular radio network comprises at least one base station 100 applying dynamic channel allocation, i.e. a channel allocation method in the purest form of which all system frequencies are in use in every cell. Channel selection is performed at call set-up on the basis of the interference situation prevailing at the moment in question. The system possibly also
15 comprises base stations applying fixed channel allocation, i.e. a channel allocation method in which the frequencies available to the system are divided into groups, each cell then using a particular frequency group. One and the same frequency group can be re-allocated to cells that are sufficiently far apart from each other.

20 The invention is thus applicable for use in office systems only comprising base stations of the invention, or in different hybrid systems which possibly use also macro cells that apply fixed or dynamic channel allocation. The cellular radio network of the invention is preferably a GSM/DCS/PCS 1900 network.

25 The base station 100 is in contact with a base station controller 104 controlling one or more base stations. In certain types of systems, such as in small separate office systems, the operations of the base station 100 and the base station controller 104 can be integrated into one and the same physical apparatus.

30 Figure 1 illustrates, as an example of the sub-cells of the base station 100, a ground floor 122A, a first floor 122B and a second floor 122C of a multi-storey building 120. In each floor 122A, 122B, 122C, the base station is provided with a fixed connection to an antenna unit 118A, 118B, 118C. An antenna unit can comprise one or more antennas. A fixed connection can be
35 implemented for instance by means of a coaxial cable or optical fibre. The connection can be simplex or duplex. In a duplex connection the antenna unit

118A, 118B, 118C then comprises a duplex filter, an antenna filter, and amplifiers for both transmission directions. There are naturally also other ways of forming sub-cells, a sub-cell can be for instance a predetermined geographical area or, in a building, an area occupied by a particular floor. The number of sub-cells can also greatly vary depending on the situation.

For the sake of clarity, the Figure only illustrates one person carrying a subscriber terminal 102 in the building.

Figure 1 also shows a more detailed structure of the base station 100. Figure 1 only comprises the blocks that are essential for describing the invention, although it is apparent to a person skilled in the art that a common base station comprises other functions and structures, too, which need not be discussed in greater detail here. The base station can be for instance of the type used in the GSM system, comprising, however, the changes required by the invention. The base station comprises one or more transceivers TRX1-TRX2-TRXN. One transceiver TRX1-TRXN offers radio capacity for one TDMA frame, i.e. usually for eight time slots.

The base station 100 further comprises a switching field 116. The switching field 116 connects signals to travel between a particular transceiver TRX1-TRXN and an antenna unit 118A, 118B, 118C.

The base station comprises at least one measurement unit 124 for measuring through the antenna unit 118A, 118B, 118C of a sub-cell 122A, 122B, 122C the reception power of a received signal.

In addition, the base station comprises a control unit 114 controlling the operation of other devices, the control unit having a connection to each transceiver TRX1-TRXN, a multiplexer 110, a measurement unit 124 and the switching field 116. In addition to control functions, the control unit 114 can also be used for processing, receiving and storing data. The control unit 114 receives control data from the base station controller 104 via an abis interface. The base station controller 104 can also directly control some parts, for instance the multiplexer 110. The functionality of the control unit 114 can be divided in different ways, for instance as shown in the Figure, the control operations then being concentrated in one unit 114. A plural number of control units 114 can also be employed, for instance one for controlling the switching field 116 and one for controlling the transceivers TRX1-TRXN. Some of the functionality can also be located in the base station controller 104.

In Figure 2A the base station illustrated in Figure 1 operates as

required by the method of the invention. The sub-cell under examination is the sub-cell of the second floor 122C, so the neighbour sub-cells of the sub-cell of the second floor 122C are now determined. The control unit 114 directs the first available transceiver TRX1 to transmit a test signal 200 on a connection
5 established, via the switching field 116, through the antenna unit 118C of the sub-cell of the second floor 122C.

The control unit 114 directs the measurement unit 124 to measure the reception power of the test signal 200 received, via the connection established using the switching field 116, through the antenna unit 118B of the
10 sub-cell of the first floor 122B. The measured reception power value is transferred to the control unit 114 for storage.

As shown in Figure 2B, the control unit 114 then directs the measurement unit 124 to measure the reception power of the test signal 200 received, via the connection established using the switching field 116, through
15 the antenna unit 118A of the sub-cell of the ground floor 122A. The measured reception power value is transferred to the control unit 114 for storage.

The reception power of the test signal now having been measured in all other sub-cells 122B, 122A, except in the sub-cell 122C under examination, the measured test signal reception powers stored in the control
20 unit 114 are used for determining which sub-cells 122B, 122A are neighbours of the sub-cell 122C under examination. This can be performed at least in two ways. A predetermined number of sub-cells with the best reception powers are determined as the neighbours of the sub-cell under examination. Assuming that there were for instance two of them, then both sub-cells 122A, 122B
25 would be determined as neighbours of the sub-cell 122C under examination.

According to another alternative, sub-cells in which the reception power exceeds a predetermined threshold value are determined as neighbours of the sub-cell under examination. In the example described, the
30 reception power measured from the sub-cell 122B is probably higher than the reception power measured from the sub-cell 122A, due to the location of the sub-cells in question in relation to the sub-cell 122C. The sub-cell 122B would presumably exceed the threshold value and the sub-cell 122A would remain below it, depending, of course, on the threshold value set.

The time when the method of the invention is used for determining
35 neighbours may vary greatly. The neighbours of a sub-cell can be determined at regular intervals. The interval is then stored for instance in the memory of

the control unit 114. In addition, somewhere in the base station 100, for instance in the control unit 114, there must be a clock showing the lapse of time to allow the determination to be performed at regular intervals. In principle, the base station controller 104 can also command the base station 100 it administers to perform the determination at regular intervals.

Sub-cell neighbours can also be determined by means of a command issued to the base station 100 to that effect by the network operator. The control unit 114 is then arranged to receive the command to perform the determination, issued by the operator via for instance a network management system managing a cellular radio network, a management system managing a subnetwork, or a system managing an individual network element, i.e. a base station in this case.

The control unit 114 can be arranged to perform the determination also at the start-up of the base station 100.

Further, the control unit 114 can be arranged to perform the determination in case the network circumstances change, for instance due to a new sub-cell being added to the base station 100.

In certain cases the sub-cells of a particular sub-cell may have to be determined manually. This means that propagation of radio waves in the sub-cell is severely blocked, which prevents the test signal from being received in the real neighbour sub-cells. As shown in Figure 1, the sub-cell 122A can be so well insulated that areas 132 bordering the cell, i.e. walls, floor, ceiling, and a door opening 130, do not let radio waves through.

When the determination is being made, it must be ensured that thick doors 130, if any, are open, in order to allow also disturbances, that possibly occur rarely, to be identified, because radio waves propagate farther through an open door 130 than they do when the door 130 is closed. Another alternative is to trust that disturbances are rare and to perform the determination with the doors 130 closed.

According to a preferred embodiment described in Figure 2C, the measurement unit 124 is arranged to simultaneously measure the reception powers in as many other sub-cells 122B, 122A as possible. Otherwise the determination takes place as shown in Figures 2A and 2B, except that the measurement unit 124 can simultaneously receive as many different signals as possible, two in this example, and measure the reception power of each signal separately. In the earlier example the reception powers in the other sub-

cells were measured consecutively, one by one, because the measurement unit 124 was not capable of simultaneously measuring a plural number of signals. An advantage of the embodiment is that the measurements allow a better comparison to be made between them, because they take place at the same time instant in the same radio path circumstances.

The measurement unit 124 must then have a number of inputs corresponding to the possible number of signals. Also the switching field 116 must comprise a number of switching options corresponding to the number of the inputs of the measurement unit 124.

Figure 2D shows yet another embodiment different from the embodiments described earlier. It comprises at least one transceiver TRX2 which can also function as a measurement unit 124, a separate measurement unit 124 then being not necessarily needed. According to the principles of Figures 2A and 2B, the antenna units 118B and 118A of the sub-cells 122B and 122A are connected in turn to the transceiver TRX2 functioning as a measurement unit 124 and the reception power is measured. An advantage of this embodiment is that a separate measurement unit 124 dedicated to measurements alone is not necessarily needed.

According to an embodiment, sub-cell neighbours can be divided into classes the limits of which are determined according to the reception powers. The classes are then processed by applying fuzzy logic, in other words, simple rules are used for making decisions concerning the determination of the neighbours. An example of such a simple rule is to use the volume of traffic traversing the base station 100 as a basis for determining the classes that are the neighbours of the sub-cell at a particular moment; the less traffic, the more classes the neighbours comprise and the more traffic, the less classes the neighbours comprise. Thus, when the volume of radio traffic is low, the quality of connections is maximised. Correspondingly, when the number of connections is large, the capacity of the base station 100 is maximised at the expense of quality.

The classification allows the neighbour cell determination according to the invention to be repeated more often in the highest reception power class than in the others, the test signal being only received through the antenna units of sub-cells belonging to the highest reception power class. The system settings thus correspond, most of the time, to the system circumstances actually prevailing, verification of the circumstances being possible, in

accordance with the invention, by means of measurements.

The invention is advantageously implemented by means of software, the invention then requiring only relatively simple changes in software within a carefully limited area in the control unit 114. In addition, a measurement unit 124 measuring the reception power of either a single signal or a plural number of signals at a time is needed, or at least one transceiver TRX2 which in addition to its normal operations is also capable of measuring signal reception power.

The neighbour relationships having been determined, measurement capacity can be allocated on the basis of antenna unit groups. A particular group then advantageously comprises antenna units of sub-cells which are each other's neighbours. When a call is set up, a signal transmitted by a subscriber terminal is measured in each antenna unit group, the signal transmitted by the subscriber terminal and received through the antenna units belonging to the group in question being combined in each antenna unit group. Reception power is thus measured in each antenna unit group from the combined signal. The antenna unit group providing the best combined reception power is then further processed. From the antenna unit group is then measured, one by one, through each antenna unit belonging to the antenna unit group, the reception power of the received signal transmitted by the subscriber terminal. Lastly, the antenna unit providing the best reception power in the best antenna unit group is selected as the antenna unit providing the connection. The described method can also be applied for measurements needed in handover. The described method provides a considerable advantage in that it requires significantly less measuring capacity than a solution requiring a separate measurement unit for each or nearly each antenna unit. The described two-step measurement allows the number of measurement units to be reduced, which decreases the costs of setting up a base station.

Even though the invention is described above with reference to an example shown in the attached drawings, it is apparent that the invention is not restricted to it, but can vary in many ways within the inventive idea disclosed in the attached claims.

CLAIMS

1. A method for the determination of neighbours of a sub-cell (122C) in a cellular radio network base station (100) applying dynamic channel allocation, the base station (100) comprising:

5 at least two sub-cells (122A, 122B, 122C);

in each sub-cell (122A, 122B, 122C), an antenna unit (118A, 118B, 118C) with a fixed connection to the base station (100);

at least one transceiver (TRX1-TRX2-TRXN) for transmitting a signal through the antenna unit (118A, 118B, 118C);

10 at least one measurement unit (124) for measuring the reception power of the signal received through the antenna unit (118A, 118B, 118C),

characterized in that

a transceiver (TRX1) is used for transmitting a test signal (200) through an antenna unit of the sub-cell (122C) under examination;

15 the test signal (200) is received through antenna units (118A, 118B) of the other sub-cells (122A, 122B);

the measurement unit (124) is used for measuring the reception power of the test signal (200) received through the antenna units (118A, 118B) of the other sub-cells (122A, 122B);

20 on the basis of the measured reception powers of the test signal (200), neighbour sub-cells (122B) of the sub-cell (122C) under examination are determined.

2. A method according to claim 1, **characterized** in that the reception powers in the other sub-cells (122A, 122B) are measured
25 consecutively, one by one.

3. A method according to claim 1, **characterized** in that the reception powers in as many of the other sub-cells (122A, 122B) as possible are measured simultaneously.

30 4. A method according to claim 1, **characterized** in that a predetermined number of sub-cells (122A, 122B) with the best reception power are determined as neighbours of the sub-cell (122C) under examination.

35 5. A method according to claim 1, **characterized** in that sub-cells (122B) in which the reception power exceeds a predetermined threshold value are determined as neighbours of the cell (122C) under examination.

6. A method according to claim 1, **characterized** in that the

neighbours of the sub-cell (122C) are determined at regular intervals.

7. A method according to claim 1, **characterized** in that the neighbours of the sub-cell (122C) are determined when the network operator issues a command to that effect to the base station (100).

5 8. A method according to claim 1, **characterized** in that the neighbours of the sub-cell (122C) are determined when the base station (100) is started up.

9. A method according to claim 1, **characterized** in that the neighbours of the sub-cell (122C) are automatically determined when a new
10 sub-cell is added to the base station (100).

10. A method according to claim 1, **characterized** in that the neighbour cells of a sub-cell (122A) in which the propagation of radio waves is severely blocked are determined manually.

11. A method according to claim 1, **characterized** in that the
15 neighbours of the sub-cell (122C) are divided into classes the limits of which are determined on the basis of the reception powers.

12. A method according to claim 11, **characterized** in that the classes are processed applying fuzzy logic.

13. A method according to claim 12, **characterized** in that
20 on the basis of the volume of traffic traversing the base station (100) are determined the classes that are neighbours of the sub-cell (122C) at a particular moment; the less traffic, the more classes the neighbours comprise and the more traffic, the less classes the neighbours comprise.

14. A method according to claim 11, **characterized** in that
25 the determination of a sub-cell (122C) neighbour according to the method is repeated more often in the class with the highest reception power than in other classes, the test signal being only received through the antenna units of the sub-cells belonging to the class with the highest reception power.

15. A cellular radio network base station (100) comprising:
30 dynamic channel allocation;
at least two sub-cells (122A, 122B, 122C);
in each sub-cell (122A, 122B, 122C), an antenna unit (118A, 118B, 118C) with a fixed connection to the base station (100);
at least one transceiver (TRX1-TRX2-TRXN) for transmitting a
35 signal through an antenna unit (118A, 118B, 118C);
at least one measurement unit (124) for measuring the reception

power of the signal received through the antenna unit (118A, 118B, 118C);

a switching field (116) for connecting a signal to travel between a particular transceiver (TRX1-TRX2-TRXN) and antenna unit (118A, 118B, 118C);

5 a control unit (114) controlling the operation,

characterized in that

the control unit (114) is arranged to direct the transceiver (TRX1) to transmit a test signal (200) through the antenna unit (118C) of the sub-cell (122C) under examination connected via the switching field (116);

10 the antenna units (118A, 118B) of the other sub-cells (122A, 122B) are arranged to receive the test signal (200);

the measurement unit (124) is arranged to measure the reception power of the test signal (200) received through the antenna units (118A, 118B) of the other sub-cells (122A, 122B);

15 the control unit (114) is arranged to determine the neighbour sub-cells (122B) of the sub-cell (122C) under examination on the basis of the measured reception powers of the test signal (200).

16. A base station according to claim 15, **characterized** in that the measurement unit (124) is arranged to measure the reception powers consecutively, one by one.

17. A base station according to claim 15, **characterized** in that the measurement unit (124) is arranged to simultaneously measure the reception powers in as many of the other sub-cells (122A, 122B) as possible.

18. A base station according to claim 15, **characterized** in that the control unit (114) is arranged to determine a predetermined number of sub-cells (122A, 122B) with the best reception power as neighbours of the sub-cell (122C) under examination.

19. A base station according to claim 15, **characterized** in that the control unit (114) is arranged to determine the sub-cells (122B) in which the reception power exceeds a predetermined threshold value as neighbours of the sub-cell (122C) under examination.

20. A base station according to claim 15, **characterized** in that the control unit (114) is arranged to determine the neighbours of the sub-cell (122C) at regular intervals.

21. A base station according to claim 15, **characterized** in that the control unit (114) is arranged to determine the neighbours of the sub-

cell (122C) when the network operator issues a command to that effect to the base station (100).

22. A base station according to claim 15, **characterized** in that the control unit (114) is arranged to determine the neighbours of the sub-cell (122C) when a base station (100) is started up.

23. A base station according to claim 15, **characterized** in that the control unit (114) is arranged to automatically determine the neighbours of the sub-cell (122C) when a new sub-cell is added to the base station (100).

24. A base station according to claim 15, **characterized** in that the control unit (114) is arranged in such a way that the neighbour cells of a sub-cell (122A) in which the propagation of radio waves is severely blocked are determined manually.

25. A base station according to claim 15, **characterized** in that the control unit (114) is arranged to divide the neighbours of the sub-cell (122C) into classes the limits of which are determined on the basis of the reception powers.

26. A base station according to claim 25, **characterized** in that the control unit (114) is arranged to process the classes by applying fuzzy logic.

27. A base station according to claim 26, **characterized** in that the control unit (114) is arranged to determine on the basis of the volume of traffic traversing the base station (100) the classes that are neighbours of the sub-cell (122C) at a particular moment; the less traffic, the more classes the neighbours comprise and the more traffic, the less classes the neighbours comprise.

28. A base station according to claim 25, **characterized** in that the control unit (114) is arranged to repeat the determination of the neighbour of the sub-cell (122C) of the invention more often in the class with the highest reception power than in the others, the test signal being only received through the antenna units of the sub-cells belonging to the class with the highest reception power.

1/5

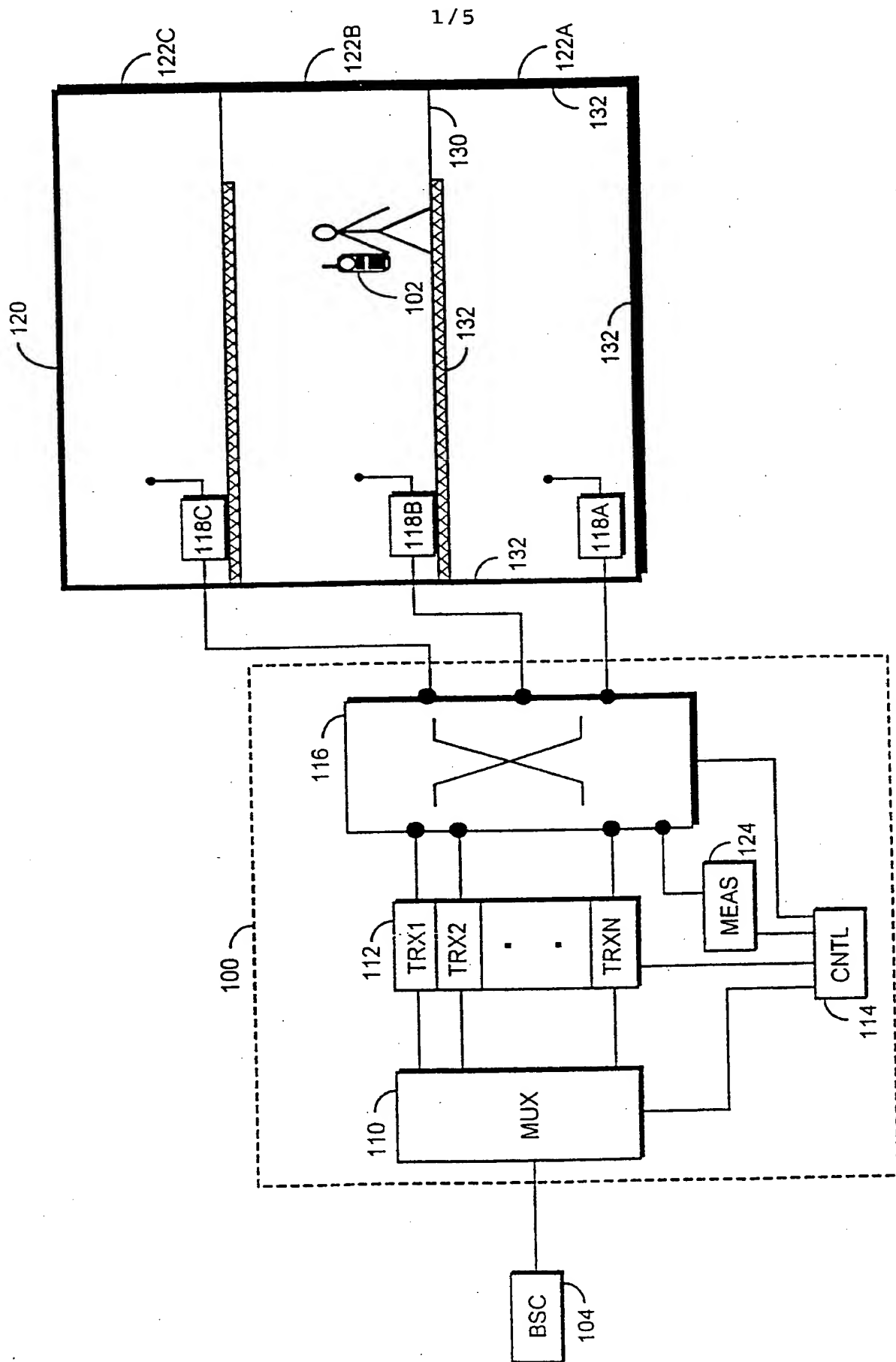


Fig 1

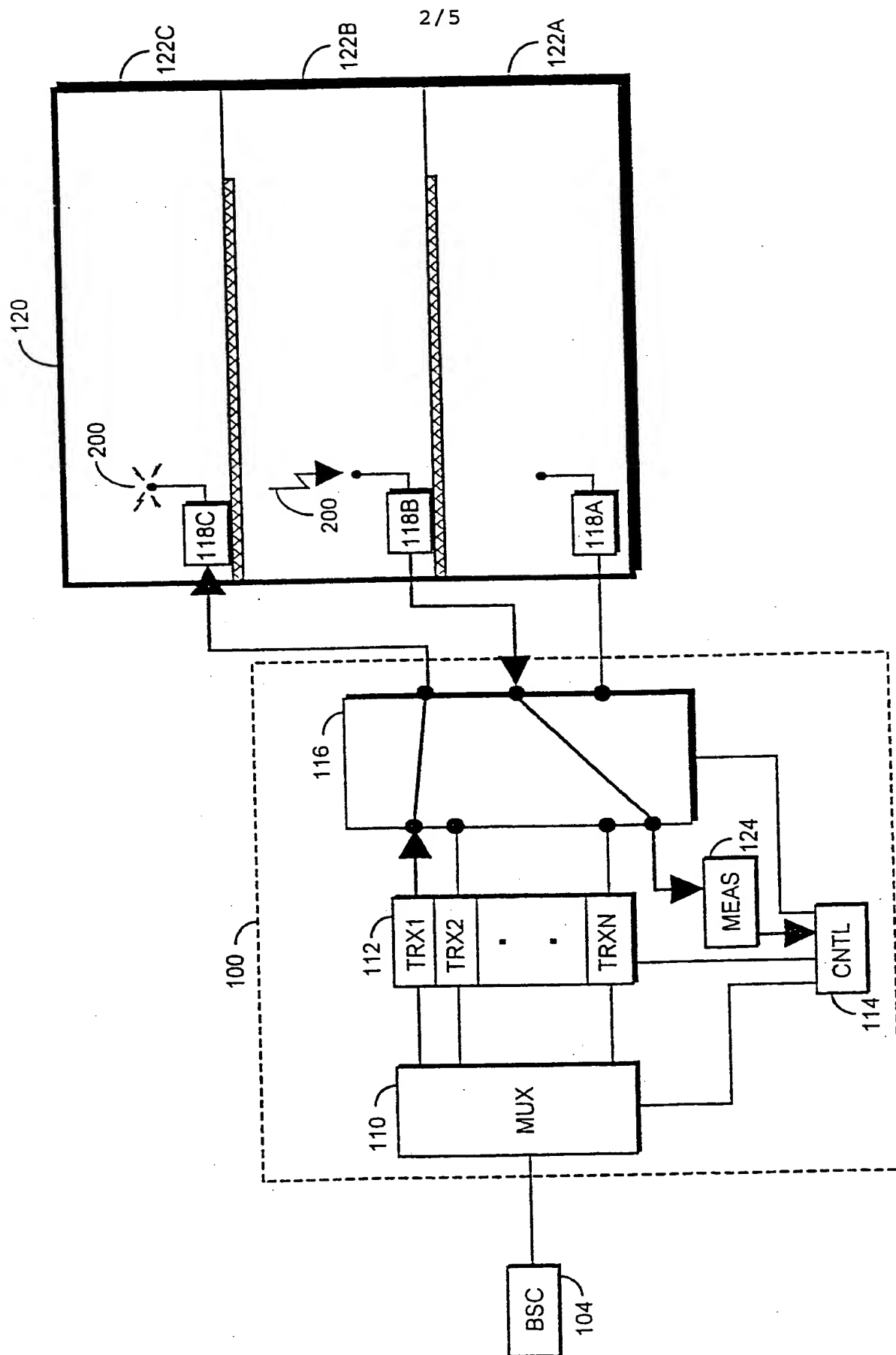


Fig 2A

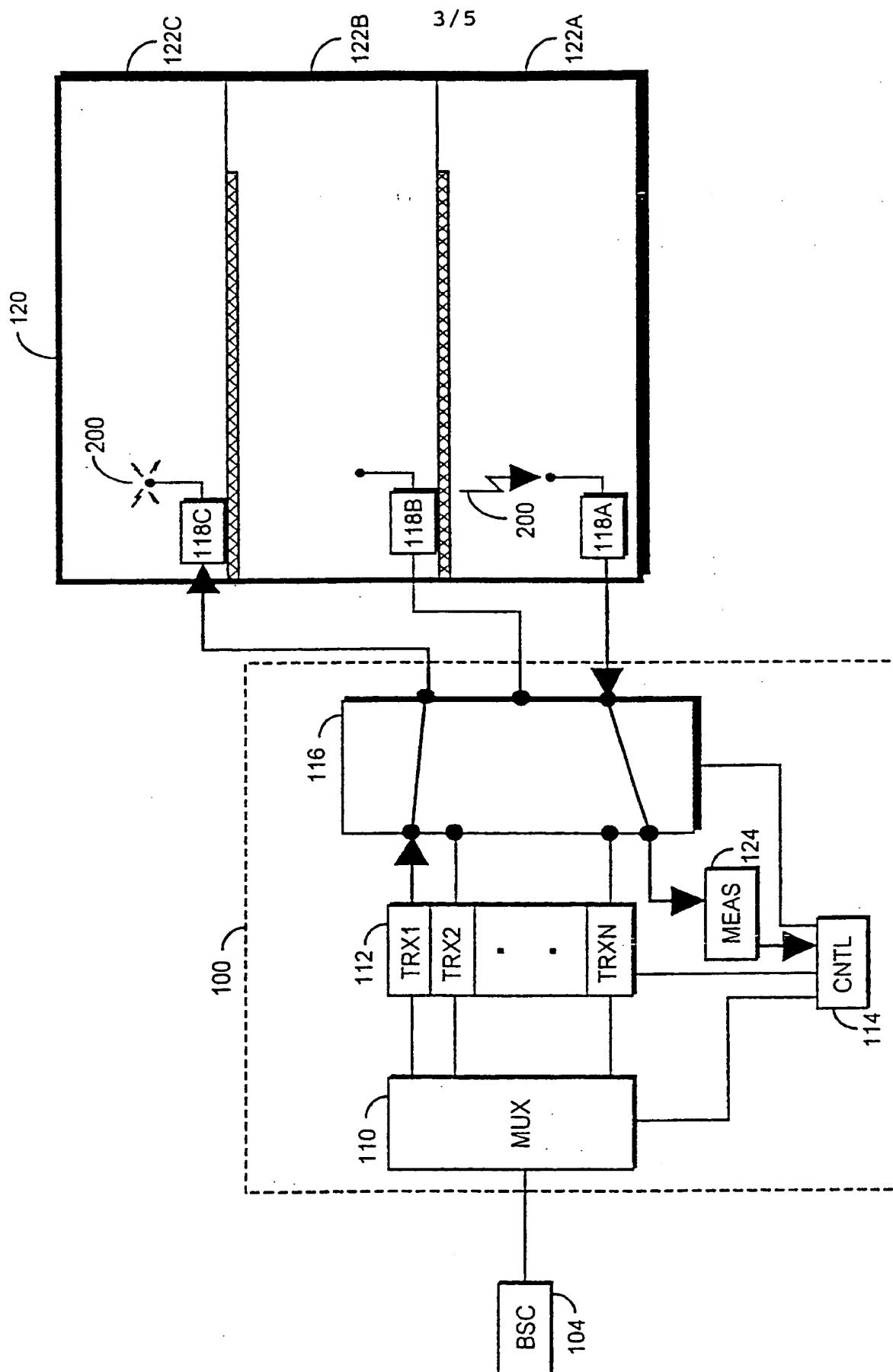


Fig 2B

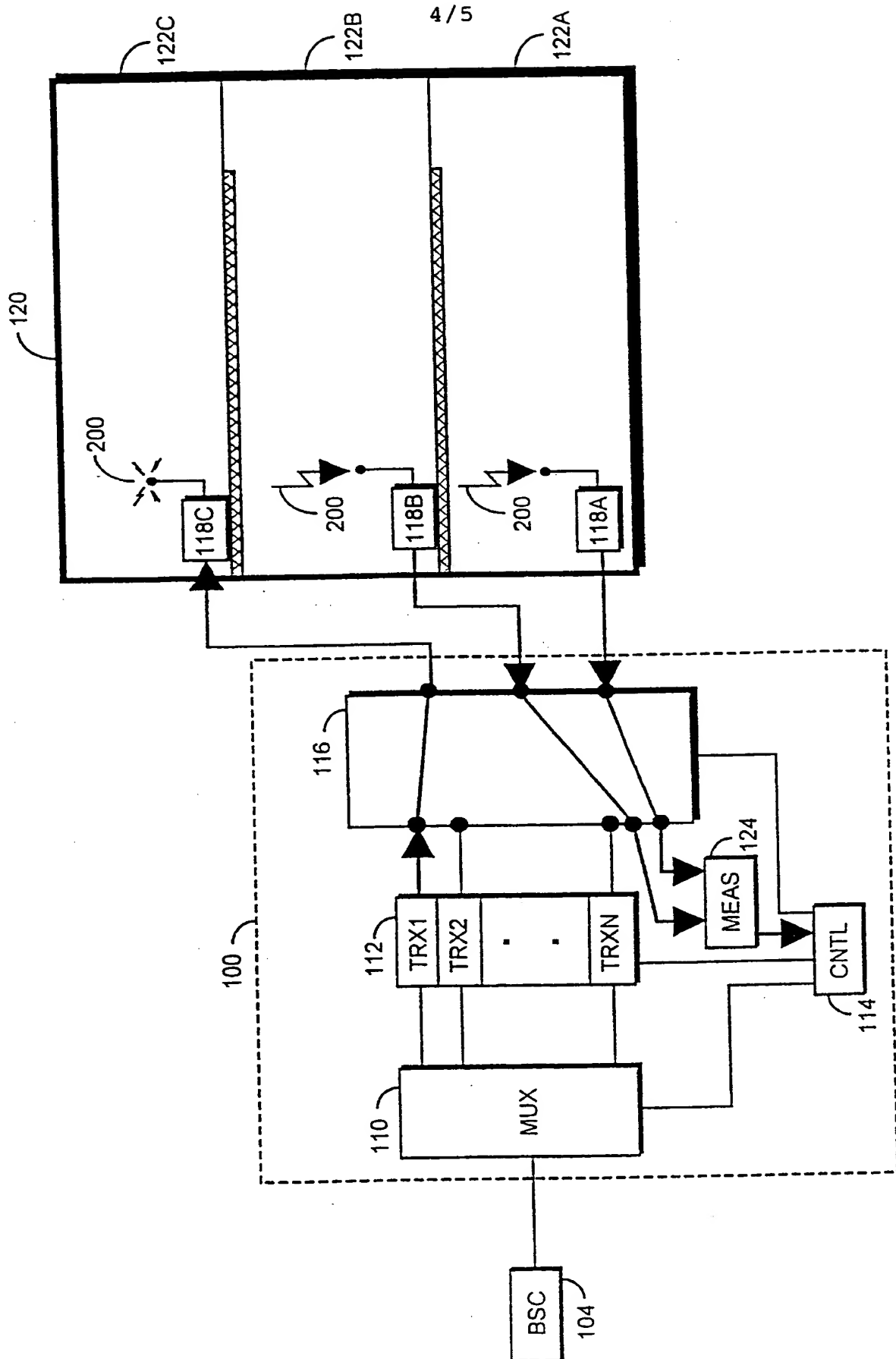


Fig 2C

5/5

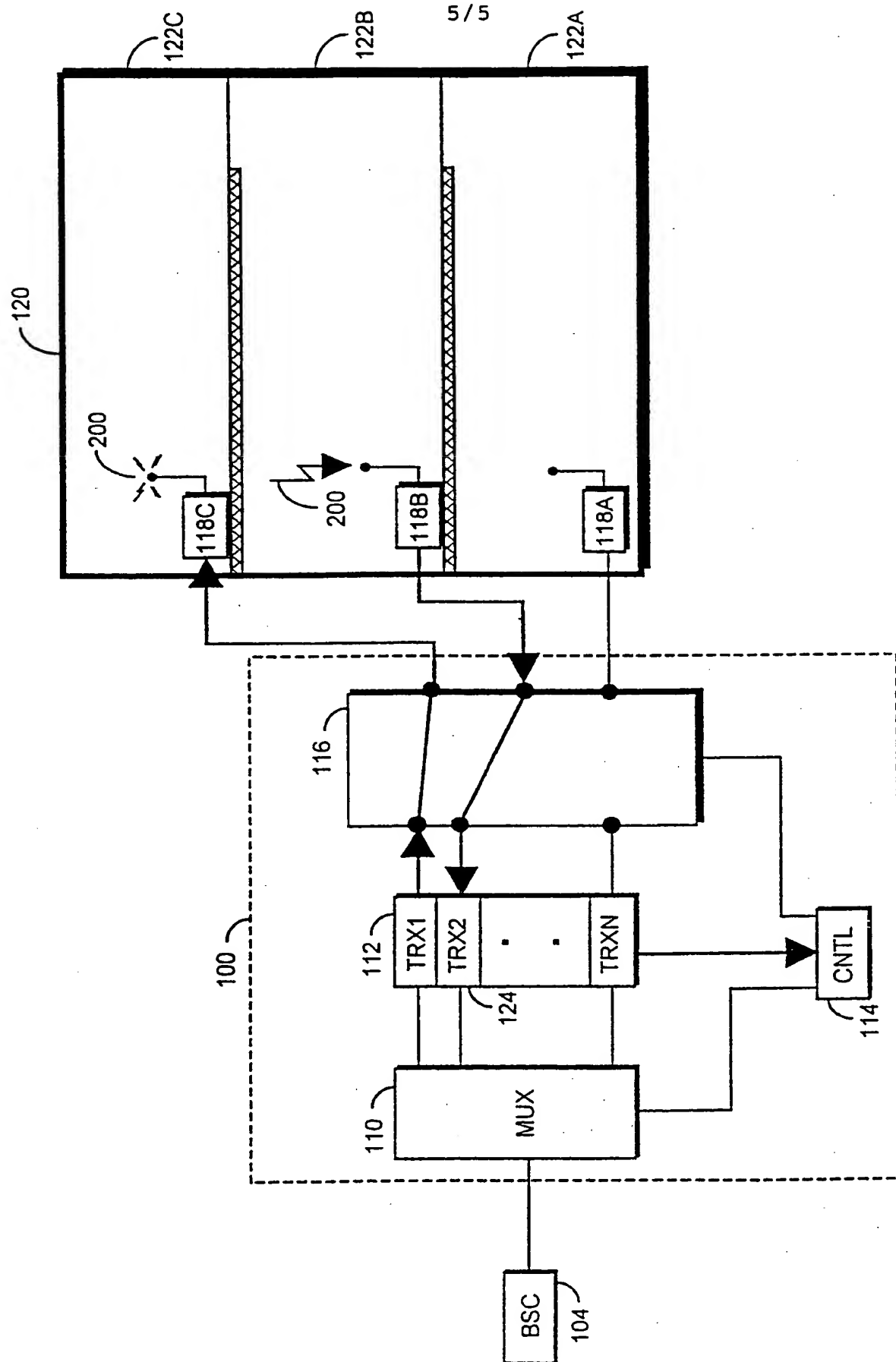


Fig 2D

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/FI 98/00529

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC6: H04Q 7/30, H04Q 7/36

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC6: H04Q

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

SE,DK,FI,NO classes as above

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

EPODOC, WPI

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	DE 19537398 A1 (DETEMOBIL DEUTSCHE TELEKOM MOBILNET GMBH), 10 April 1997 (10.04.97), column 8, claims 1-2 --	1-15
A	EP 0702462 A1 (AT&T CORP.), 20 March 1996 (20.03.96), page 1, abstract --	1-15
A	US 4704734 A (BARRY J. MENICH), 3 November 1987 (03.11.87), page 22, column 2, line 63 - line 67 -- -----	1-15

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.☒ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"I" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

4 November 1998

Date of mailing of the international search report

05 - 11 - 1998

Name and mailing address of the ISA/

Swedish Patent Office

Box 5055, S-102 42 STOCKHOLM

Facsimile No. +46 8 666 02 86

Authorized officer

Peter Hedman

Telephone No. +46 8 782 25 00

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

05/10/98

International application No.

PCT/FI 98/00529

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
DE 19537398 A1	10/04/97	NONE	
EP 0702462 A1	20/03/96	CA 2154303 A	13/03/96
		JP 8088599 A	02/04/96
		US 5628052 A	06/05/97
US 4704734 A	03/11/87	NONE	

This Page Blank (uspto)

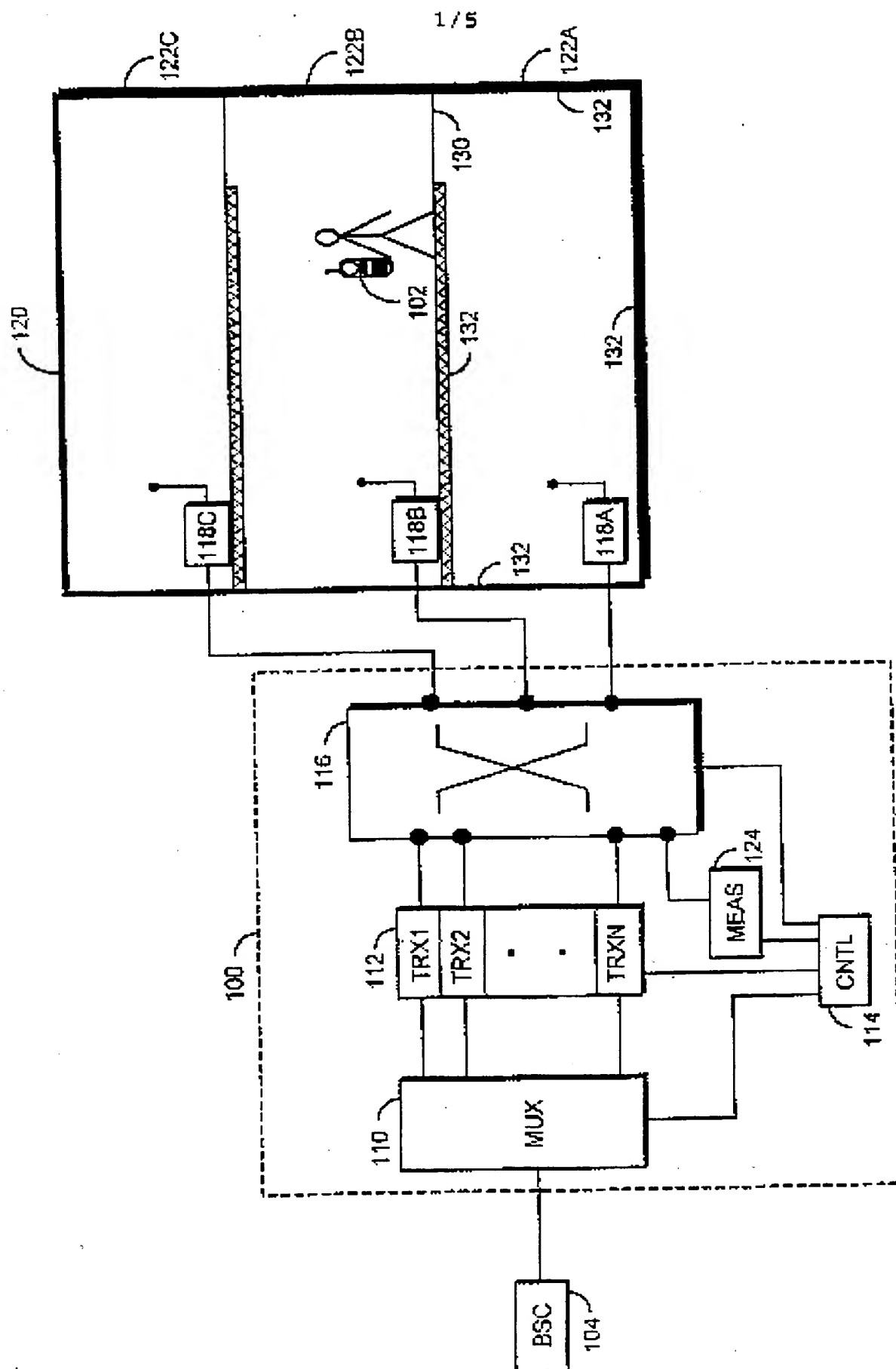


Fig 1

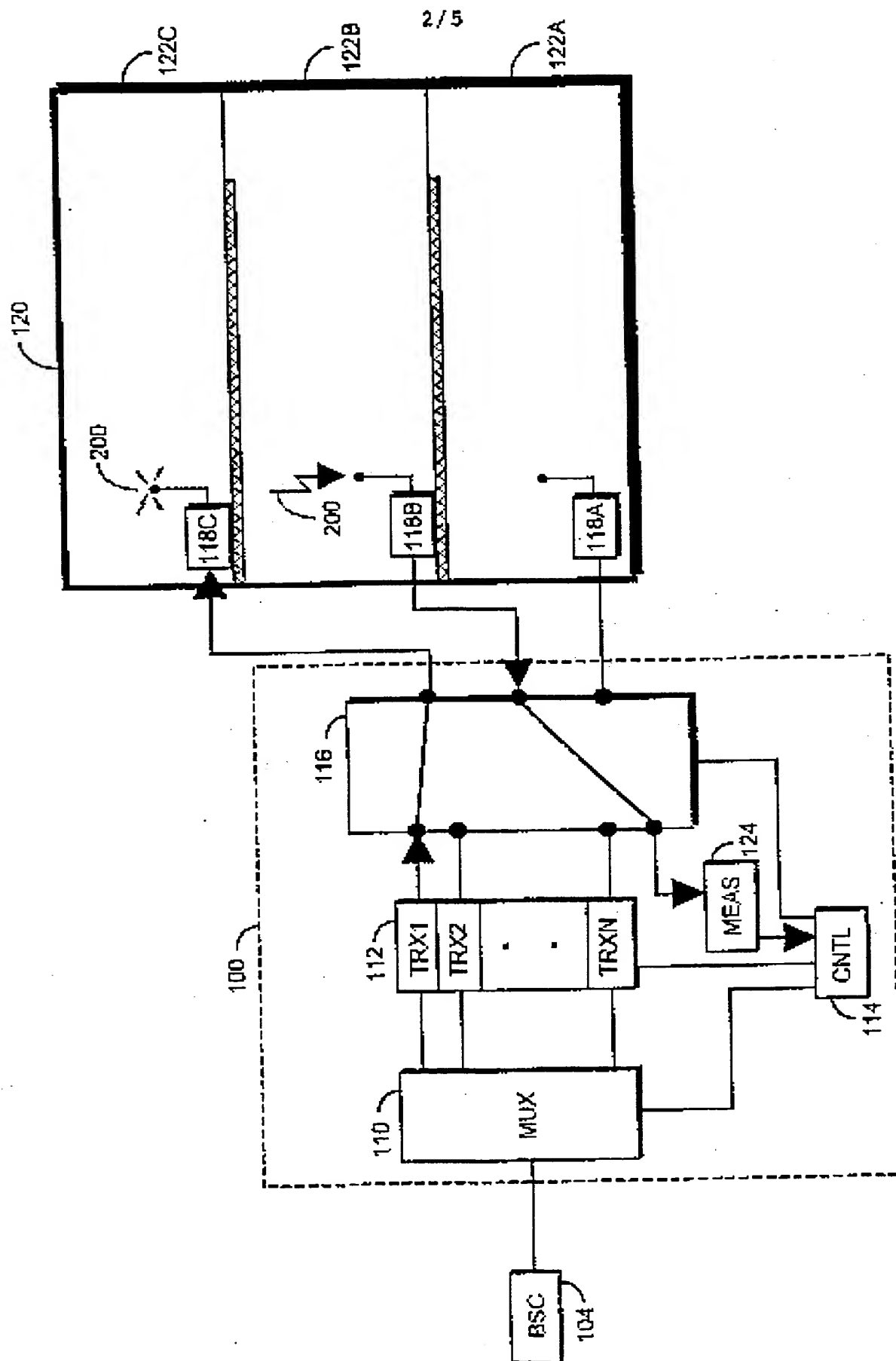


Fig 2A

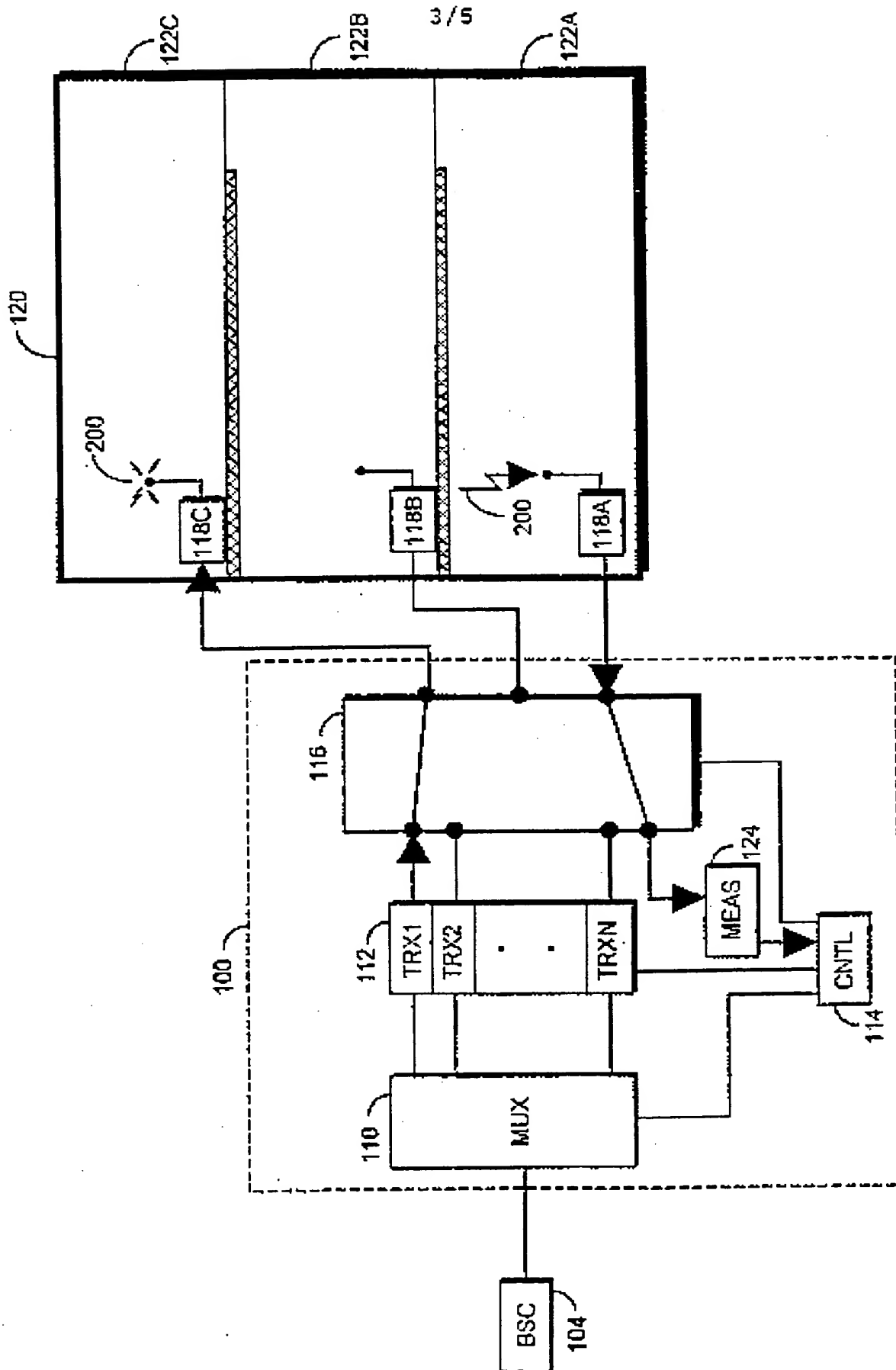


Fig 2B

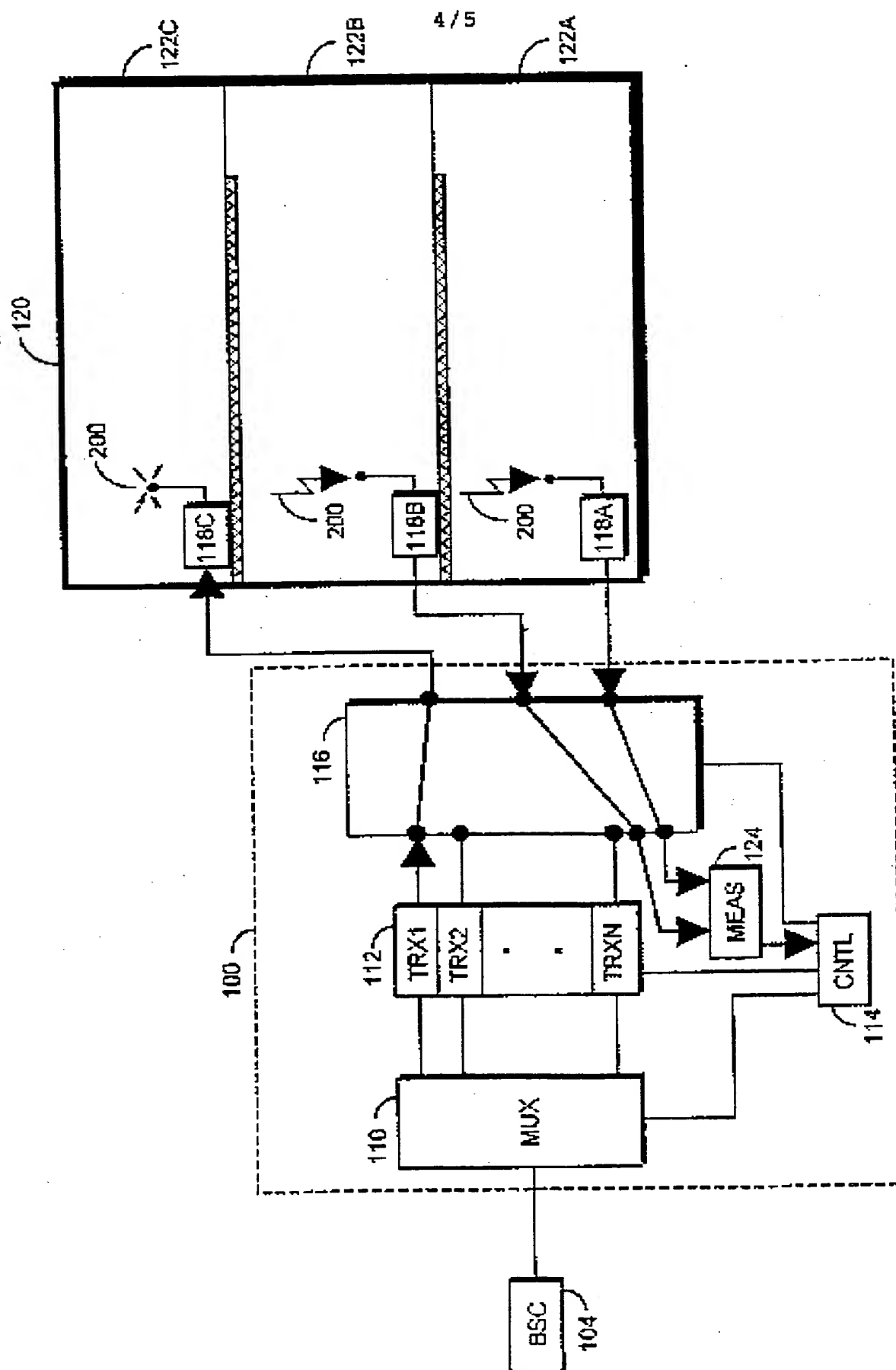


Fig 2C

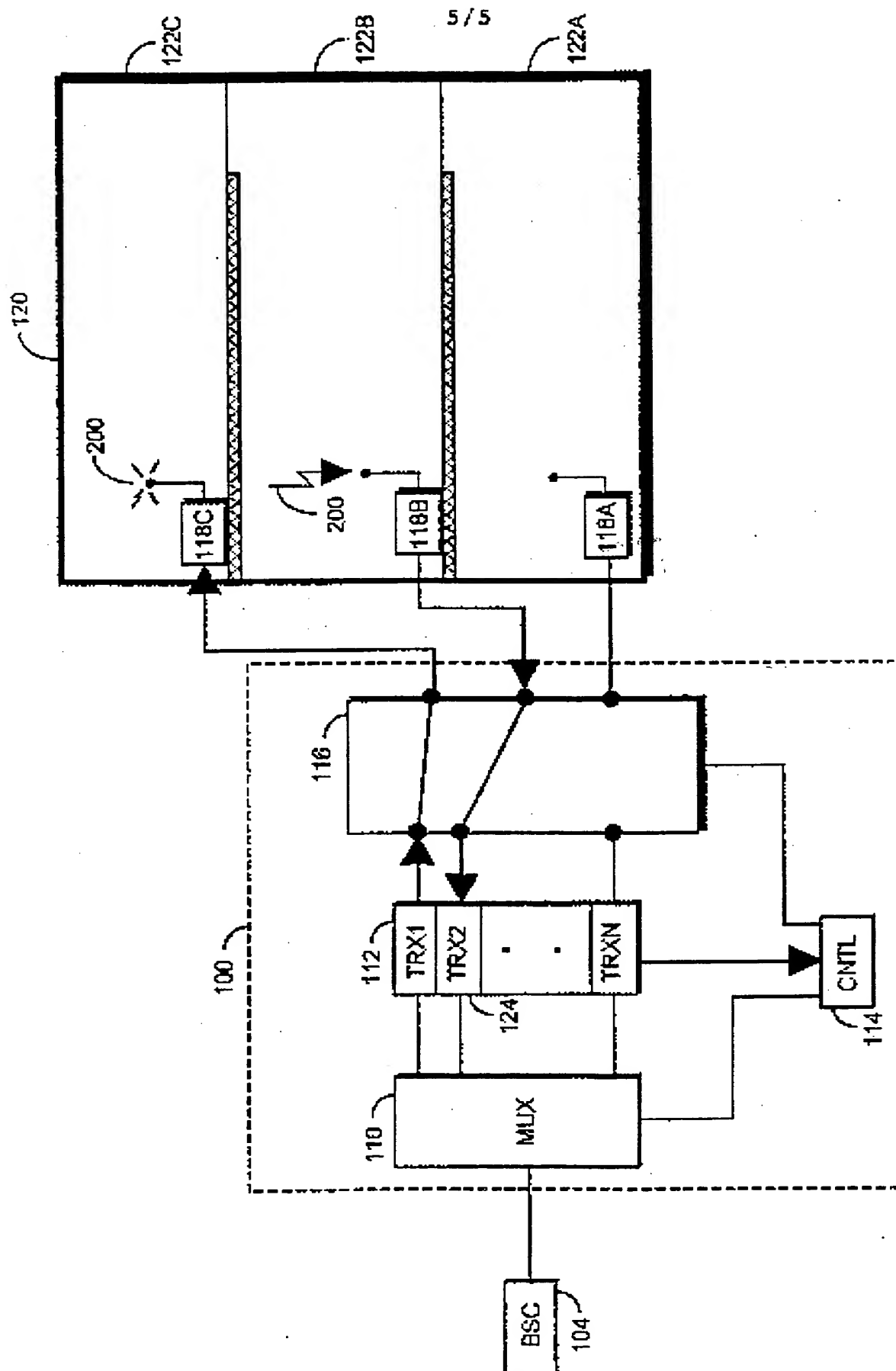


Fig 2D

**ORIGINAL
NO MARGINALIA**